

SARTON MEDAL LECTURES

LAUDATIO JAN GODDERIS

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The task of introducing Prof. Dr. J. Godderis as recipient of the Sarton Medal for the academical year 1994-95 is certainly not easy. On the one hand it is appropriate as a collega proximus to honour such an outstanding scholar in the history of medicine, on the other hand every introduction fails to mention all the endeavours and fields of medicine in which Dr. Godderis is active.

Jan Godderis was born in 1944. After his secondary school in which he first encountered his life-long love for the classical Greek language, he went to the University of Louvain where he graduated as M.D. in 1970. After a short period of general medical practice, he returned to his Alma mater for further training in neurology and psychiatry. In 1976 he obtained his specialist certificate in neuropsychiatry. He remained after the completion of his training in Louvain and became physician in charge of the department of gerontopsychiatry at the University. Later on he was appointed professor and put in charge of the teaching in the graduate curriculum of the medical and paramedical students at the faculty of medicine in Louvain for psychiatry and gerontopsychiatry.

In 1989 he was furthermore charged with the course on the History of medicine at the University of Louvain.

In the same period he obtained his Ph.D. in Louvain on a thesis reflecting his interests in classical Greco-roman medecine (*Bijdragen tot de geschiedenis van de begripsontwikkeling in de psychiatrie en de geneeskunde. Een reflectuur van bepaalde auteurs uit de Grieks-Romeinse medische filosofische traditie*, KUL 1990).

Prof. Godderis is also very active in a multitude of committees

and societies concerning the care of the older psychiatric patients. He is a well-known gerontological psychiatric physician. From his hand numerous (more than 120) papers and reports concerning his interests have been published in international and national journals and in books. The most famous of these covers new aspects of Galen's knowledge of psychiatry (Galenos van Pergamon over psychiatrische stoornissen).

Dr. Godderis' motto during his clinical, scientific and historical career remains the basic principle and ethical dimension of the *ἰατρὸς* in ancient Greece, so admired by him as a philhellenic person. It therefore is appropriate that I invite him now to lecture us about 'The Hippocratic asclepiad and his patient'.

